



MADE EASY

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY
WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WEEK-2

8th October - 14th October

Targeted Examinations:
CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams

8th OCTOBER 2020

My Ganga My Dolphin Campaign



- My Ganga My Dolphin campaign recently launched on the occasion of Ganga River Dolphin Day.
- It was launched by the National Mission for Clean Ganga, the Wildlife Institute of India and the Forest Department.
- The campaign has been launched for sustainable tourism. It also links with the livelihood through Dolphin Conservation for ecotourism along the Ganga river. It will also conduct a census under the stretch.

Project Dolphin

- The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- It was launched with an aim to conserve and protect dolphins in the marine and riverine ecosystems. The 10-year project focuses on both sea and river dolphins.

Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI)

Context:

- Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) showed that India's service sector output broadly stabilized in September, 2020.
- Data released showed India's PMI for manufacturing rose to 56.8 in September, the highest since January 2012.

About PMI:

- PMI is an indicator of business activity in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.

Jan Andolan campaign

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a campaign called Jan Andolan for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour. The campaign was launched with a hashtag #Unite2FightCorona.

Key Facts:

- The campaign has been launched with a key message for people to stay united to fight Corona.
- It reminds people to wear a mask, to wash hands, to follow social distancing and to practice 'Do Gaz Ki Door' to fight the situation.
- The campaign has been launched in the wake of upcoming festivals, winter season and opening up of the economy.

9th OCTOBER 2020

India's first advanced manufacturing hub (AMHUB)

The first of its kind in India, the Advanced Manufacturing Hub (AMHUB) will be jointly set up by the World Economic Forum and Tamil Nadu Government.

Key Points:

- AMHUB is one among the nineteen platforms that has been designed by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- Tamil Nadu's nodal investment promotion agency called Guidance will also be joining hands with WEF.

- The Hub would help the state Tamil Nadu in sectors of solar energy, electronics, electric mobility and textiles. It would also boost the production sector by identifying regional opportunities brought by the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the state.

Nobel Prize in Literature 2020

- Nobel Prize 2020 in Literature has been awarded to 77-year-old American poet Louise Glück. She is also a professor of English at Yale University, Connecticut.



- In the year 1968, Glück made her debut with *Firstborn* and soon rose as one of the most prominent poets in American contemporary literature.
- She has so far published 12 collections of poetry and some essays.
- She is known for collections of poetry *The Triumph of Achilles* (1985) and *The Wild Iris* (1992).

10th OCTOBER 2020

Mission Lantana

A special drive to uproot the invasive Lantana bushes in the Sajjangerh wildlife sanctuary in Rajasthan's Udaipur district under "Mission Lantana" helped in ecological restoration of grasslands and saved biodiversity.

- *Lantana camara* is a thicket forming shrub, which covered vast tracts of land in the sanctuary and was stopping the natural light and nutrition for flora and fauna.

About Mission Lantana:

- It was a month-and-a-half-long campaign accompanied by the plantation of native species on the cleared patches of land.
- The drive involved collective efforts by the forest officials, police personnel, wildlife lovers, representatives of voluntary groups and local villagers.

Nobel Prize in Peace 2020

The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 was awarded to World Food Programme (WFP) "for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict."

About World Food Programme (WFP)



- The WFP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on hunger and food security.
- Founded in 1961, it is headquartered in Rome and has offices in 80 countries.
- In addition to emergency food aid, WFP focuses on relief and rehabilitation, development aid, and special operations, such as making food systems more resilient against climate change and political instability.
- It is an executive member of the United Nations Development Group, which collectively aims to fulfil the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and has prioritized achieving SDG 2 for "zero hunger" by 2030.

11th OCTOBER 2020

Political Crisis in Kyrgyzstan

Context:

- Recently, President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbai Jeenbekov declared a state of emergency in the capital (Bishkek) till October 21, giving permission to the military to step in after a fresh set of clashes broke out between supporters of rival politicians.
- Earlier, Jeenbekov went into hiding after protestors took over government buildings, including the presidential house.

Background:

- Protests erupted after the results of the parliamentary elections were declared recently, with the Opposition and demonstrators alleging that the results were rigged.
- As per the preliminary results released, two pro-government parties were among the four that got at least seven per cent of the popular vote, which is required to enter the parliament. This meant that the parties allied with the government won nearly all the seats in the 120-seat chamber.
- In total, 16 parties were contesting the elections. The opposition parties have made allegations that the winning parties indulged in vote-buying.

Current Happenings

- Since the protests started, the elections have been annulled and will be re-held.
- The protestors took over most of the government apparatus after the elections, halting some foreign gold mining operations
- Recently, members of Kyrgyzstan's parliament unanimously approved Sadyr Japarov as the country's new prime minister, who was in detention but was freed by protestors last week. Even so, this did not stop the violence, with supporters of Japarov hurling rocks at the supporters of his rival and would-be prime minister, Omurbek Babanov.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

Context:

As a part of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), some stricter measures to fight air pollution to be come into force in Delhi and its neighbouring National Capital Region (NCR) towns, since winter season is approaching.

About GRAP

- Approved by the Supreme Court in 2016, the plan was formulated by Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) along with state government representatives and experts.
- As such, the plan does not include action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions. It works only as an emergency measure.
- When the air quality shifts from poor to very poor, the measures listed have to be followed since the plan is incremental in nature. Therefore, when the air quality moves from 'Poor' to 'Very Poor', the measures listed under both sections have to be followed.

12th OCTOBER 2020

Svavitva Yojana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched a programme related to physical distribution of property cards under Svavitva scheme.
- Under this scheme, the beneficiaries now will have a right, a legal document of owning their houses in rural areas.
- Till now, 100,000 beneficiaries from Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have been handed over the legal papers of their houses.
- The scheme aims to give such property cards to every household in the next three-four years in every village of the country.

French Open 2020

The 2020 French Open Grand Slam tennis tournament recently concluded at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.



Key Highlights

- Spanish Tennis legend Rafael Nadal won his 13th French Open title, equating Roger Federer with 20th Grand Slam title overall, defeating Novak Djokovic in the final.
- The women's singles title was won by Iga Swiatek (Poland), who won her maiden singles title, defeating Sofia Kenin (USA) in the final.
- In Men's doubles titles, the duo of Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies defeated Mate Pavic and Bruno Soares, whereas in Women's doubles titles, Timea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic defeated Alexa Guarachi and Desirae Krawczyk.

13th OCTOBER 2020

FELUDA Test

- Drugs Controller General of India has approved FELUDA Test which is an accurate and low-cost paper-based test strip to detect COVID-19 in less than 30 minutes.

- It uses indigenously developed CRISPR gene-editing technology to identify and target the genetic material of SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
- It was developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Tata Group.
- FELUDA is the acronym for 'FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay'.

Nobel Prize in Economics 2020



- U.S. economists Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson have won the Nobel Prize in Economics 2020 for work on commercial auctions, including for goods and services difficult to sell in traditional ways such as radio frequencies.
- The duo was honoured for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.
- The winners will share the prize sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.1 million).
- This prize is officially known as Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences. It was first awarded in 1969 to Dutch economist Jan Tinbergen and Norwegian economist Ragnar Frisch for having developed and applied dynamic models for the analysis of economic processes.

Blue Flag Certification

Context:

The eight beaches of India which include Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Golden Beach (Odisha), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Goghla (Daman and Diu), Radha Nagar (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Kappad (Kerala) and Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh) have recently been given the Blue Flag Certification.



The beaches were selected and recommended by an independent National Jury consisting of eminent scientists and environmentalists.

About Blue Flag Certification

- The Blue Flag certification is globally recognized tag which is provided to those beaches that are providing clean and hygienic bath facilities to the tourist or the beach goers.
- It has been accorded by a Denmark based International agency known as the Foundation for Environment Education.
- The certification is also given to the beaches that provide safe and healthy environment and promote sustainable development in and around the beach area.

BEAMS

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change launched Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services (BEAMS) which is an eco-label programme.
- It is operated under the integrated coastal zone management project in India. The BEAMS was launched in order to remove debris and promote sustainable development in the coastal regions.
- **It primarily focuses on four categories:**
 - ♦ Environmental Education
 - ♦ Quality standards of Bathing Water
 - ♦ Safety and security of beaches
 - ♦ Environmental Management including the solid waste management and cleanliness

Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog

Context:

The Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog (RKA) has recently begun the nationwide campaign called 'Kamadhenu Deepawali Abhiyan' on October 12, 2020.

Key Highlights

- The primary aim of the Kamadhenu Deepawali Abhiyan is to promote extensive use of cow dung during the Diwali season.
- Under the scheme, RKA would be promoting the cow dung based diyas, dhoop, Agarbatti, swastika, wall-pieces as well as idols of goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha.
- The campaign has targeted to reach to the 11 crore families and ignite 33 crore diyas made of cow dung.
- Apart from that, the initiative would be igniting 3 lakh diyas in Ayodhya and 1 lakh diyas in Varanasi.
- This initiative is being implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

About Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog (RKA)



- The Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog was established in 2019 under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission with a budget of Rs 750 crores.
- It aims to protect and conserve the development of cows and their progeny.
- It works in collaboration with the animal sciences, veterinary sciences and agriculture universities engaged in breeding and rearing cow.
- **Functions:**
 - ♦ To conserve the indigenous breeds of cows.
 - ♦ To increase the growth of livestock sector.
 - ♦ To ensure proper implementation of laws for the welfare of cows.
 - ♦ To conserve, protect and develop cattle population in the country by providing direction and policy framework.

14th OCTOBER 2020

Border Adjustment Tax

Context:

The European Union to introduce a cross-border levy for carbon-intensive imports something like a carbon border adjustment tax mechanism.

About Border Adjustment Tax

- Border Adjustment Tax is a value-added tax on imported goods and is also referred to as a border-adjusted tax, destination tax or border tax adjustment.
- In this scenario, exported goods are exempt from tax while imported goods are subject to the tax.
- The border adjustment tax levies a tax depending on where a good is consumed rather than where it is produced.

e-Sanjeevani

- The e-Sanjeevani telemedicine initiative launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently recorded the completion of 5 lakh teleconsultations.
- Currently, 26 states are using two versions of eSanjeevani's telemedicine namely, eSanjeevani OPD for patient to Doctor consultation and eSanjeevani AB-HWC for doctor to doctor consultation.
- e-Sanjeevani OPD initiative was launched during the lockdown amid the COVID-19 pandemic for people to access OPD services directly from homes. The tele-OPD has been accepted evenly by both the patients and the doctors.
- e-Sanjeevani AB-HWC telemedicine service was launched under the Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centre (AB-HWC). Presently, e-Sanjeevani AB-HWC is functional at 4,000 Health and Wellness Centres.

